

The walking journey has come to its end like any other journey, but my real journey has just started from when we started in Sovereign Hill.

I would like to thank the following people and organizations who helped us for all this journey. From the start, the Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat & 99.9 Voice FM Ballarat Community Radio Station for supporting us all the way from planning, Web hosting & all the "behind the scenes" work that was done.

Thanks Heather Ahpee from Ararat Gum San Chinese Heritage Museum for giving us the routing details & encouragement.

Thanks Grantley Thomas who was one of the original 15 walkers from Robe to Bendigo in 2001. The support from him and his wife was more than just information. He followed us every step and met us at Ararat and on the road even on the last day when we were heading into Ballarat. I do believe the supernatural phenomena, and people always tell some supernormal stories, when my wife and our support team tried to find out the way to Cavendish so they went to the Ararat Information Centre and the first person they met was Grantley, he is also a volunteer worker there on weekends. This story will not just stop here, there will be more to come regarding Grantley Thomas.

Thanks Geoffrey Wang who took us to Robe and suggested that we use a wheelbarrow on the way back. We had very seriously thought about this idea and searched Penola & Robe hardware shops for suitable wheelbarrow but Oscar objected to this idea which he regretted later on the way to Ballarat.

Next we would like to specially thank Shirley Snook, "the lady in black" in Robe, the knowledge she has about Robe is like her family stories on back of her hands, we did enjoy our time with her and the stories of Robe, not just Chinese stories.

Thanks Irene & William Peden, Past Mayor of Robe, who walked with us from the Chinese Memory Cairn. Thanks Mayor Peter for giving us best wishes when he was at a charity fundraising function.

Thanks to Kangaroo Inn Area School, allowing us staying in their school hall and providing us with water when we went 5 hours without drinking water and dumped our camp gear (as many Chinaman did 160 years ago due to extreme heat).

Very special thanks from me to Mike at Kangaroo Inn Area School, as that Fly-Mask you give Oscar to shield him from unwanted kisses by flies and saved my nerves while facing my own difficulties.

Thanks to Josieanne & Geoffrey not only offered us visiting your property to see that Chinaman grave but also helping us by fixing your shearing shed so we could have a cooked meal which Oscar said it was the best sausages and mash potatoes he ever had. You could imagine how hungry he was, thanks Josieanne, your cooking was wonderful.

Thanks Evelynne Bowden from Panola historical society arranging a welcome reception and meeting us at Chinamans Lane with cold water melon; Oscar & I ate them like ice cream just swallowed them down, not even spitting out any seeds. Thanks councillor Robert Thomas who gave us a historic lesson civic reception, it was wonderful.

Next thanks goes to farmer Allan take us to Dergholm Pub after Oscar & I had a long, mature and respectful discussion. Later, Alan told us an amazing story that connected Dergholm Cricket Club to Ballarat Chinese. Thanks Alistair Roper who may have only just chatted with us about Dergholm history but also helped us battle the 39 degree heat on the road to Casterton.

A special thanks to Catriona Hill from the Casterton Information Centre who helped us arrange a meeting with the local historical society but also met us at "Ess Lagoon" with two bottles of energy

drink; the drinks went down well in less than 10 seconds. No, it was not a drinking competition, the speed was just due to our throats spitting fire in the 39 degree heat. Thanks Dawn Black from historic society and later on, we found out she was Doug Jenkins' sister in law; such a small world. Thanks Mayor John Northcott, you know we don't need support team as everyone on the road including yourself is our supporting team.

Thanks Ken & Saoie from Coleraine historic society I met at the Post Office. we had a wonderful hour long meeting. Thanks Ros & Dawn for your hospitality.

The title "King of Cavendish" was accepted with my humble respect, but without Allan & Margaret Brumley, we wouldn't have a place with a fire on to keep us warmer, yes to keep us warmer just two days after days of 39 degrees. Also thanks Pat, Kate, Gordon, Jenny & Alison who kept us walking for an extra 5 km on that day to see your beautiful historic walkway.

Thanks is not enough to Wendy & Tony in Dunkeld. Your sheep, dogs & birds kept us entertained in your place not only one but twice and then you came to pick us up at Willaura then dropped us off next day where we had a piece of the best Vanilla Slice in Victoria. Thanks to those wonderful volunteers in Dunkeld Information Centre.

Ararat is always special to me, it was the one of first place I visited since 1989, always a very familiar feeling when I come to Ararat, for sure it was not the J Ward.

Thanks Heather Ahpee and all other volunteers who arranged a beautiful reception in Gum Sam Chinese Heritage Museum, thanks councillor Ian Harris for your beautiful speech just like your poetry. Grantley Thomas was there taking photos and even managed to get in some of them.

Thanks Andy Long who is a current Ballarat University Chinese student and joined us in the walk from Ararat, surely this is an extra part of your study and it would be the best part of your study in Australia.

What can be so special on Christmas Day? Our Chinese Australian Cultural Society Chinese Cultural School English teacher Donna and her dog made our Christmas Day walk so special, she dressed as Santa and almost every single car slowed with their windows down; you could see kids waving their hands and adults smiling. These sightings made our day go so quickly.

Thanks Grantley Thomas and his wife for following us all the way from Ararat or may be from Robe...

Thanks all the cars on the way who went "toot toot" at us, knowing that you wanted to know why we were walking on the road.

Thanks Sandy from Buangor who arranged for us to use the Buangor Sports Club Room which turned out to be far better than most motels or hotels.

Thanks Michael and Jian family and Richard Parry's family who all came to see us in the afternoon, helping to make this Christmas Day better than any other Christmas. I wouldn't mind if every day was like today. It was more than just being with friends, but like being with a family.

Thanks to our Rotary Ballarat South Rotarian Bruce Hammer joined us for the walk from Buangor, but maybe he did this because he thought the place we would be staying in was very attractive.

A very BIG thank you to Helen Sartain from Beaufort Historic Society. Helen arranged a very warm welcome and reception at your beautiful Band Rotunda. Thanks also for Mayor Robert Vence, Councillor Michael O'Connor, local business representatives and people of Beaufort. Thanks

Margaret from The Imperial Egg Gallery; without your professional personal tour we would not know that this is one of only three collections of its type in the world. Thanks to Beaufort Picture Framing & Gallery Clint & Andrea for your beautiful and special bookmark. Thanks James from Beaufort Newsagent. Thanks John Athorn from Beaufort CFA. Thanks for that Pizza shop made us like little kids that have got a big mouth but a small stomach.

Thanks to our city Ballarat councillor Samantha McIntosh who joined us in Beaufort and walked all the way to Burrumbeet. The best part of day was when Bruce and Samantha started a race for the last 300 metres toward the Burrumbeet Pub. The race also involved myself and Oscar and Bruce won by just a small margin and Sam was runner-up. We found out after the race that Kate, Bruce's wife, was at front of Burrumbeet Pub waiting for us but was looking the wrong way. Bruce had wanted to impress Kate but his efforts were in vain!! Thanks for trying Bruce. Thanks also to Samantha for a great finish.

Thanks Rotary Ballarat South for holding a BBQ night at Desley and Paul Beechey place for us. Dick knew that we had forgotten what steak tastes after more than two weeks on the road.

Thanks Bruce, your camp made our last night sleep outside very comfortable, no one snored, I know.

Thanks to those who met us at the Arch of Victory, City Town Hall and Sovereign Hill, I couldn't name you all as there were too many but a special thanks to Ballarat Community Radio station 99.9 Voice FM as due to your radio interview time we had to walk like running to get to Town Hall on time; a special thanks to Ballarat Golden Dragon Boat Club, because your "line up" welcome as the straw broke the camel's back in terms of us being overloaded with "pleasure".

Thanks Neil Steinman who took the job as tourist guide, as usual, and not because I polished that plague at city Town Hall. Thanks to Ken Bennett who came all the way from Bitten (in Gippsland) and others from Melbourne.

A very special thanks to Sovereign Hill Terry Williams, Samantha Mackley and your Chinese tour guide team; you all made us feel very welcome and allowed us to complete our journey at the Joss House.

When I raising my hands with thanks incenses I could see the pictures from Henry Gunstone's book "See Yup Gold Miners In Australia", "...there were twenty to thirty miles of Chinaman in single file, ...they were chanting 'Ballaarat, Ballaarat, Ballaarat, Ballaarat, Ballaarat, Ballaarat, Ballaarat, Ballaarat...Thanks Sarah, my wife for putting up with me for all these years.